Autonomous Market Regulator for pricing of gas

1206. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government for setting up an autonomous Market Regulator for pricing of natural gas as the mechanism used by Reliance Industries Ltd. to 'discover the market price' for natural gas from Krishna Godavari basin is non-transparent and maximizes the price of gas to the disadvantage of consumers;

if so, the details in this regard;

the reason for delay in approving this request, especially when the Planning Commission has already supported this demand of the State Government; and

by when it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Prime Minister and to Minister of petroleum & natural Gas requesting that an independent market regulator be appointed for upstream gas pricing.

The Government had constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to decide issues related to pricing of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The EGoM has decided the pricing of natural gas to be produced from K..G. Offshore after considering all relevant material. EGoM has decided that the sanctity of the Production Sharing Contracts entered into by the Government with the Contractors should be maintained.

Availability of LPG cylinders

1207. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders;

if so, the details of the requirement of LPG cylinders in the country, State-wise;

the details of availability of LPG cylinders at present, State-wise; and

the details of steps taken to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRLDINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG cylinders in the country.

OMCs have also reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period-April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.